

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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O 062030Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1641

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, VP, UY

SUBJECT: GOU EXPELS VENEZUELAN DIPLOMATS

REF: (A) MONTEVIDEO 2435, (B) MONTEVIDEO 2479, (C) CARACAS 8163

1. THE GOU ISSUED THE FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE ON JULY 6:

A) LAST JUNE 28, UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS ENTERED THE GARDEN OF THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY AND FORCIBLY CARRIED AWAY A FEMALE WHO WAS TRYING TO ENTER THE EMBASSY FROM A NEIGHBORING HOUSE.

B) THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT EXPRESSED ITS REGRETS AND REPULSION OVER THIS INCIDENT AND SET IN MOTION INVESTIGATIONS WITHIN ITS REACH TO CLARIFY THE DEED.

C) NOTWITHSTANDING THIS, THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR, JULIO RAMOS, ATTRIBUTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEED TO POLICE IN CIVILIAN DRESS, EVEN THOUGH THE PROTAGONISTS NEVER SHOWED ANY IDENTIFICATION SHOWING THEM TO BE THUS.

AMBASSADOR RAMOS DID NOT OFFER THE ELEMENTS OF JUDGEMENT ON WHICH HE BASED HIS HYPOTHESIS. FOR THAT REASON HE WAS VISITED BY HIGH CIVILIAN, POLICE AND MILITARY OFFICIALS WHO OFFERED HIM THE BROADEST POSSIBLE HELP TO CONTINUE THE INVESTIGATION OF THE INFORMATION WHICH HE MIGHT HAVE HAD, AS WELL AS THE MOST COMPLETE SATISFACTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACCEPTED UNIVERSAL, INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES.

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D) IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR RAMOS, IN LINE WITH HIS

FALSE INTERPRETATION AND WITHOUT ANY SERIOUS EVIDENCE, IMMEDIATELY MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND BASELESS VERSION. WITH THIS, HE CONTRIBUTED TO THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN DESIGNED TO DAMAGE THE IMAGE OF URUGUAY AND CREATED A NEGATIVE ATMOSPHERE FOR A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE EPISODE ITSELF.

E) ON JULY 2 IN THE AFTERNOON HE PRESENTED A NOTE WITH SOME DATA WHICH, DESPITE THEIR IMPRECISION, WERE IMMEDIATELY INVESTIGATED. SAID DATA CONSISTED OF THE FOLLOWING:

I) REQUESTING IDENTIFICATION OF ELENA QUINTERO DE DIAZ, 31 YEARS OF AGE, A TEACHER AND, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THIS EMBASSY, OF A FAMILY RESIDING ON LOS YOCKYS STREET, EL HIPODROMO NEIGHBORHOOD. SHE BEING THE PRESUMED VICTIM OF THE ILLEGAL DEED. THE SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION BROUGHT THE FOLLOWING RESULTS: THE PERSON NAMED BELONGED TO THE ANARCHIST FEDERATION OF URUGUAY AND TO THE MLN-TUPAMAROS. SHE LEFT URUGUAY JANUARY 24, 1975 ON THE "RIVER ARROW" BY HYDROFOIL FROM COLONIA FOR BUENOS AIRES, BEING LISTED NUMBER 57 ON THE PASSENGER LIST. SINCE THEN SAID PERSON HAS NEITHER BEEN DETAINED NOR AT THE DISPOSITION OF ANY NATIONAL AUTHORITY, JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE, CIVIL OR MILITARY, NOR LISTED AS HAVING LEGALLY RETURNED TO THE COUNTRY.

II) REQUESTING THAT A PRESUMED OFFICIAL OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INFORMATION AND INTELLIGENCE NICKNAMED 'CACHO' BE PRESENTED TO THE EMBASSY. INVESTIGATIONS SHOW THAT THERE DOES NOT EXIST IN SAID BUREAU ANYONE WITH SUCH A NICKNAME.

F) THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY DELIVERED THIS MORNING A NOTE IN WHICH IT GAVE THE RESULT OF THE INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED ON THE BASIS OF ONLY EVIDENCE OFFERED BY AMBASSADOR RAMOS AS PROOF OF HIS AFFIRMATION. IN THIS NOTE, ALONG WITH THE CATEGORICAL REJECTION OF THESE AFFIRMATIONS, THE WILLINGNESS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO FOLLOW UP ON THE INVESTIGATION AND TO RECEIVE ALL THE INFORMATION CONDUCIVE TO A COMPLETE CLARIFICATION OF THE MATTER WAS REITERATED.

G) IN THE COURSE OF THE INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO SUBSTANTIATE THE EVIDENCE OFFERED BY AMBASSADOR RAMOS, IT WAS POSSIBLE TO ASCERTAIN WITH SURPRISE AND INDIGNATION, THAT THE SAME PERSON (THE AMBASSADOR) HAD BEEN USING THE SAME METHODS AND INVESTIGATIONS IN URUGUAYAN TERRITORY--SECRET INQUIRIES--WITH THE COOPERATION OF A MEMBER OF THE STAFF OF HIS DIPLOMATIC MISSION. THIS GRAVE AND UNUSUAL DEED, IMPLIES A FLAGRANT AND UNACCEPTABLE VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY. BUT, IN ADDITION, IT SHOWS THE INTENTION OF SR. RAMOS OF FINDING SUPPOSED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROOFS OF HIS INITIAL AFFIRMATIONS, WHICH WERE MADE WITH LEVITY AND IMPRUDENCE, AND AGGRAVATED BY WORLD-WIDE PUBLICITY.

H) AT THE SAME TIME THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT BECAME AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THIS SAME DIPLOMAT HAD TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO OBTAIN THE SUPPORT OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN ORDER THAT THIS BODY SUPPORT HIS ALLEGATIONS.

I) IN VIEW OF THE AFOREMENTIONED ACTS, THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT HAS DECLARED SR. JULIO RAMOS AND SR. FRANCISCO RICARDO BECERRA,

AMBASSADOR AND COUNSELOR OF THE EMBASSY OF VENEZUELA, RESPECTIVELY, PERSONA NON GRATIS, GIVING THEM A PERIOD OF 72 HOURS IN ORDER TO LEAVE THE NATIONAL TERRITORY.

J) THE ACTIONS (OF THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT) RELATING TO THE EPISODE OF JUNE 28 WERE SET FORTH IN THE NOTE DELIVERED THIS MORNING. THE NOTE SHOWED THE DISTORTING EFFECT THAT THE FALSE INTERPRETATION OF THESE SAME ACTIONS OF THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT BY SR. RAMOS HAD HAD; IN THE NOTE WERE SUMMARIZED THE ACTIONS TAKEN UP TO THE PRESENT AS A RESULT OF THE INVESTIGATION BY THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT; AND THE NOTE ANNOUNCED THE CONTINUATION OF THESE EFFORTS.

K) ALSO, THE WILLINGNESS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY TO SEND THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO CARACAS, ON A MISSION OF GOOD WILL, WAS MADE KNOWN TO THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA YESTERDAY. THE PURPOSE BEING TO TRANSMIT PERSONALLY THESE POINTS OF VIEW, ESPECIALLY THE NEGATIVE EFFECT OF THE ACTIONS OF AMBASSADOR RAMOS WHICH PREVENT COMPLETE SOLUTION OF THIS INCIDENT. THIS PROPOSITION WAS NOT CONSIDERED CONDUCIVE TO THE SOLUTION OF THIS MATTER ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA.

L) FINALLY, THE NOTE REITERATES THE CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY IN THIS EPISODE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS PERMANENT POLICY OF PEACE, FRIENDSHIP, AND COOPERATION, (A POLICY)

WHICH WILL NEVER PREVENT THE GOVERNMENT FROM DEFENDING ENERGETICALLY NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND THE DIGNITY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND

PEOPLE OF URUGUAY, (WHICH HAD BEEN) OFFENDED BY THE CONDUCT OF AMBASSADOR RAMOS."

2. COMMENT: THIS MOVE PROBABLY WAS PROMPTED BY KNOWLEDGE OF AN IMMINENT BREAK IN RELATIONS BY VENEZUELA--WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HAS OCCURED. THE GOU AT LEAST UNTIL THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 5, HAD BEEN ATTEMPTING TO AVOID A BREAK. THE URUGUAYAN AMBASSADOR TO VENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EZUELA TOLD AN EMBOFF ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE 5TH THAT HE (AMBASSADOR LUPINACCI) WAS RETURNING TO CARACAS IMMEDIATELY AND OTHER FONOFF OFFICIALS WERE STILL, AT THAT TIME, HOPING TO AVOID THE BREAK. SIRACUSA

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